

# WHO WE ARE

AND WHAT WE DO



South Carolina  
**Forestry Commission**



### **Our mission**

Protect, promote and enhance South Carolina's forests for the benefit of all

### **Our vision**

Healthy forests, resilient communities, impeccable service





# BY THE NUMBERS

## SC FORESTRY FACTS & FIGURES: FY2020-21

### Forest management

- ▶ 2,201 landowners assisted
- ▶ 1,192 cost-share, stewardship and/or woodland exams performed, covering 74,424 acres
- ▶ SCFC personnel conducted 11,716 acres of prescribed burns, plowed 706 miles of firebreaks, performed 1,193 acres of prescribed-burn standbys and installed 420 waterbars



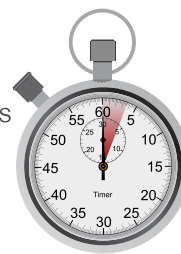
### Fire statistics

- ▶ 1,077 wildfires
- ▶ 7,744 acres burned
- ▶ 633 fires caused by debris burning, the No. 1 cause in SC (58.8% of all wildfires in SC in FY2020-21)
- ▶ 362,637 burn notifications handled by automated call center
- ▶ 5-year average: 1,367 fires / 10,976 acres burned



### Fire response

- ▶ The Commission's three dispatch centers field more than 22,000 calls every year for notifications and reporting of wildfires
- ▶ The average response time between the report of a wildfire and the arrival of an initial attack warden was 37.21 minutes



### Investment

- ▶ \$571.4 million in forestry capital projects announced in FY2020-21
- ▶ 91 primary mills
- ▶ ~800 secondary mills
- ▶ 47,000+ jobs stemming directly from forest industry  
\* >98,000 total jobs
- ▶ \$2.58 billion in direct labor income



### Ownership

- ▶ 64,000+ forest landowners in SC with 10 or more acres
- ▶ 87% of SC forests are privately owned
- ▶ 52% of private forests are family-owned
- ▶ The average "family forest" is 97 acres. 63% of these owners have their primary residence on the land
- ▶ Forest industries own 838,000 acres, down 58% since 2001
- ▶ Public agencies manage 13% of South Carolina's forests



### Enforcement

- ▶ 41 sworn officers
- ▶ 259 fire investigations
- ▶ 49 fire tickets, 18 game and fish cases, 17 violations of state forest regulations and 15 miscellaneous cases
- ▶ 109 timber theft/fraud cases
- ▶ \$14,067.50 in fines collected
- ▶ 83% or \$376,879.60 of timber theft/fraud losses recovered for victims



### Wood supply



- ▶ 12.85 million acres of forestland, composed of 52% hardwood and 48% softwood
- ▶ SC's forests now contain 27.4 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century
- ▶ There are 2 million more acres of forestland in SC than there were in 1936.
- ▶ The state's forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing more wood than is being harvested



# WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION

## IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### Protecting the resource

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is the lead agency for wildfire suppression on 12.9 million acres of forested and agricultural land in South Carolina. To protect public safety and the valuable forest resource, the agency uses highly trained wildland firefighters and specialized equipment and techniques. In cooperation with local fire departments, the SCFC suppresses approximately 2,000 fires that burn roughly 16,000 acres in an average year.

### Suppression tactics and equipment

With a statewide computer-aided dispatch system, the SCFC mobilizes specially equipped firefighting bulldozers, wildland fire engines and even hand crews to fight wildfires. Since most wildfires occur in remote areas and often far from water sources, the primary way wildfires are suppressed is by the creation of firebreaks – removing vegetation and debris to expose bare mineral soil. The width of the break depends on the type of fuel in which the fire is burning and the weather conditions.



The primary tool to create firebreaks is a tractor plow unit, consisting of a modified bulldozer that is equipped with a fire plow and blade. These units allow firefighters to rapidly create firebreaks near the fire, while protecting the firefighter from direct contact with the heat and flames. In mountainous areas where tractor plow units cannot operate, specially trained hand crews of 10-20 firefighters use tools such as fire rakes, pulaskis and shovels to construct firebreaks. In wet areas, low ground pressure equipment, including firetracks, is used to deliver water. Drip torches are also used to widen firebreaks by burning out fuels between the break and the oncoming fire.

### Air operations

Aircraft are used to help locate wildfires and are also used as an eye in the sky to improve safety when firefighters are working. SCFC pilots relay important information to firefighters about fire behavior, fuels, obstacles and structures threatened. When special situations arise, aerial tankers and helicopters are available from other sources to assist by dropping water on fires.

### Investigating wildfires

SCFC law enforcement officers investigate the cause of every wildfire and enforce outdoor burning laws. Officers also conduct extended investigations into suspicious fires, including those caused by negligence and arson.

### Reporting wildfires

If you see a wildfire, call (800) 777-FIRE (3473) and be prepared to give the dispatcher your name, telephone number, specific location of the fire and any other information that might be helpful. Wildfires can also be reported to 911.







# PREScribed FIRE

## A FOREST MANAGEMENT TOOL

### What is prescribed burning?

Prescribed, or controlled, burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific forest and land management objectives. Controlled burning is an ancient practice, notably used by Native Americans for crop management, insect and pest control, and hunting habitat improvement, among other purposes. The practice continues today under the direction of land managers who understand the appropriate weather conditions, fuel loads and atmospheric conditions for conducting such burns. These carefully applied fires are an important tool to reduce wildfires, enhance wildlife habitat, and keep the nearly 13 million acres of forested land in South Carolina healthy and productive.

### Benefits

- ▶ Forest management: removes unwanted brush that is competing with desired species. It can also help prevent or control certain diseases and insect infestations.
- ▶ Wildlife management: removes thick undergrowth, making travel and feeding easier for some species.
- ▶ Wildfire hazard reduction: reduces the amount of fuel (leaves, pine needles and twigs) on the forest floor, which can help prevent catastrophic wildfires in the area.

### Safety and equipment

- ▶ Always wear the proper personal protection equipment (PPE), including a hard hat, goggles/safety glasses, leather gloves, fire-resistant clothes or clothes made of natural materials, and leather boots.
- ▶ Use existing firebreaks and natural barriers, including roads, ponds and plowed fields. If needed, additional firebreaks should be created using hand tools, a bulldozer or by watering around the area the day of the burn.
- ▶ Work with a crew of at least three or four people. Crew members can help set the fire, control it and mop up.
- ▶ Use a drip torch to start the fire.
- ▶ During the burn have sprayers filled with water, shovels, axes and fire rakes on hand. A chainsaw is also a good tool to have available for cutting snags.

### When to burn

- ▶ Native grasses: December, January, February and March.
- ▶ Site preparation: August, September and October.
- ▶ Forest understory: January, February, March, April and May.
- ▶ Burn when the winds are low and the humidity is moderate. Burning conditions are normally better during the day than at night, and smoke management is easier during the day.
- ▶ The best time to begin burning is in the morning after dew has evaporated.

### Contact the SCFC!

- ▶ State law requires people to notify the Forestry Commission prior to burning for forestry, wildlife management or agricultural purposes. To notify the SCFC, call (800) 777-3473.
- ▶ Commission foresters can prepare a prescribed burning plan for a landowner **free of charge** to reduce wildfire and smoke hazards.
- ▶ For a minimal charge, the Forestry Commission can construct firebreaks, have equipment standing by during a burn or conduct the prescribed burn for the landowner.





# WILDFIRE FACTS

## IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### Causes

In 1927, the South Carolina Forestry Commission was created to provide wildland fire protection and reforestation. It is the only state agency charged with this responsibility.

The leading cause of wildfire in South Carolina is careless debris burning, accounting for more than 50% of all forest and brush fires in 2020-21. Debris burning includes trash, yard debris, and land-clearing material.

Woods arson is the second leading cause of wildfire in South Carolina. The psychology of arson is complicated, but many woods arsonists are motivated by revenge, thrill-seeking or the mistaken idea that burning rids the woods of vermin.

Lightning, the only natural cause of fire in South Carolina, accounts for only about 3% of all wildfires. Many think that careless smokers are responsible for many fires, but it is very difficult to start a fire with a cigarette. Smoking accounts for only 1-2% of our wildfires.

South Carolina's largest recorded forest fire occurred in April 1976 in Horry County. The fire started from an unattended campfire and burned 30,000 acres before being contained.

### Statistics

The most dangerous time for forest fire in South Carolina is from January through May. Wildfire activity usually peaks in March, but many of our largest fires have happened in April.

South Carolina Forestry Commission firefighters battle approximately 2,000 wildfires every year. These fires burn roughly 16,000 acres. Most of this firefighting is done with bulldozers equipped with heavy plows and blades that are used to remove flammable material from the path of the fire; structural firefighters attack the heat side of the triangle, using water to cool the flames.

More than 40 South Carolina homes are destroyed or damaged by wildfire each year.

SCFC's automated call center handles between 260,000 and 500,000 burn notifications every year.

The average time between the report of a wildfire and the arrival of an initial-attack warden was 37.21 minutes in 2020-21.

### Wildfire causes, by percentages of occurrence, FY2020-21

Debris burning	58%
Incendiary	14%
Miscellaneous	8%
Equipment use	6%
Power line	3%
Children	2%
Lightning	5%
Smoking	2%
Structure	2%
Campfire	1%
Fireworks	<1%
Railroad	1%

— Percentages do not add up to 100% because of rounding.



# WILDFIRE PROGRAMS

## OFFERED BY THE SC FORESTRY COMMISSION

### FireWise

The Forestry Commission uses GIS data, site visits, and information from local and county governments to identify communities at risk from wildfire. Using criteria developed for use in the southern region, the SCFC has identified 1,244 communities in the state that are at high or moderate risk from wildfire. Once communities at risk are identified, the SCFC works with local fire departments to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans to address the specific needs of each community to reduce the vulnerability to wildfire.



### Prevention

Each year, wildfire prevention efforts are planned and conducted across the state. Areas where escaped debris burns, responsible for more than 46% the wildfire ignitions in South Carolina are more common, are targeted. Agency personnel distribute materials that explain the notification process and safe outdoor burning, followed by site visits by agency law enforcement officers and local fire department personnel.

### VFD assistance

The SCFC administers several programs to assist rural fire departments with wildland fire suppression:

- ▶ Each year, Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants, funded by the USDA Forest Service, are made available to fire departments. These grants help equip firefighters with interoperable communications, wildland firefighting gear, and with modifications to vehicles to better assist the SCFC with wildfire control.
- ▶ Through an agreement with the USDA Forest Service, the Forestry Commission makes excess federal property available to fire departments. Through this program, the SCFC can acquire excess federal property that can be converted for use in wildland fire suppression. There are currently more than 920 pieces of this equipment on loan or titled to fire departments, including fire engines, pickup trucks, tankers, and all-terrain vehicles.

### Law enforcement

SC Forestry Commission law enforcement officers, who are also fully trained wildland firefighters, assist with wildfire prevention through enforcement of outdoor burning laws, investigation of suspicious fires, and determining the origin and cause of wildfires. Other duties include the investigation of timber fraud, timber theft, and other timber transaction crimes.

SCFC law enforcement officers conduct between 600 and 700 fire investigations a year, prosecute roughly 100 timber theft/fraud cases, write approximately 250 fire tickets and recover about 55% of landowners' timber losses.

# FOREST MANAGEMENT

## LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE, SERVICES & EQUIPMENT

SCFC has 18 outreach foresters that provide general forestry advice to citizens who own forestland. They develop forest management plans to help landowners meet the objectives for their property, including timber management, wildlife habitat, soil and water quality protection, aesthetics and recreation.

### **Landowner assistance**

Many landowners also contact SCFC for help selling their timber to ensure they get the best price for their commodity. Agency foresters refer many of these property owners to private consulting foresters for additional assistance. Other landowners seek advice on the best species of tree to plant, the financial return they can expect on their investment, when their trees need to be thinned, and other forest management information. For those needing a detailed plan, SCFC foresters develop Forest Stewardship plans that include a 10-year timeline of activities that helps them achieve their objectives. Our foresters recommend timber buyers and vendors such as tree planters and herbicide applicators and can help landowners implement their plans. SCFC foresters also help landowners diagnose forest insect and disease problems, and can send samples to the agency's lab if needed for diagnosis by

specialists. SCFC monitors activity of pine beetles and other pests and participates in multi-state prevention efforts such as the "Don't Move Firewood" campaign that hopes to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.







### **Forestry services**

The Forestry Commission offers forestry services such as prescribed burning, firebreak plowing and water bar construction for a fee. The agency provides standby assistance for landowners with an approved prescribed burn plan and also offers turnkey prescribed burning that is conducted by agency personnel. SCFC also rents forestry equipment such as drum choppers and tree planters for use by landowners or their contractors.

### **Urban forestry assistance**

SCFC Urban Foresters assist communities across South Carolina as they care for the trees in cities, suburbs and towns. Agency experts help develop management plans and tree protection ordinances, select trees for planting and train those responsible for urban tree care.

### **Cost-share assistance**

Cost-share programs are incentives programs to help landowners defray the cost of some common conservation and forestry practices by repaying a percentage of implementation costs. The most successful state-run cost-share program that SCFC administers is



the Forest Renewal Program, which is matched by the forest industry's wood-consuming mills at a four-to-one ratio.

The Forestry Commission also administers the Southern Pine Beetle cost-share program, which helps mitigate pine loss to SPB, one of the most destructive forest pests

in the Southeast.

The funds available in these cost-share programs are then distributed to forest landowners as an incentive for them to apply conservation practices they may not otherwise implement.

---

### **Contact us**

PIEDMONT REGION OFFICE  
(803) 276-0205

PEE DEE REGION OFFICE  
(843) 662-5571

COASTAL REGION OFFICE  
(843) 538-3708

COLUMBIA HEADQUARTERS  
(803) 896-8800

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP

## PROGRAM IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### What objectives are best suited to your management goals?

To define the actions a landowner must take in managing forest, first the objectives need to be defined. In the Stewardship Plan, one objective is considered the primary objective, of the greatest importance; another is the secondary objective, of lesser, but still major importance. And finally, multiple tertiary objectives can be defined, according to the landowner's desired results.

Potential objectives include the following:

- Timber for income
- Forest Health
- Wildlife (Hunting)
- Wildlife (Recreational viewing)
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Soil & Water Conservation
- Recreational Activities
- Aesthetics
- Cultural & Historic Preservation
- Agroforestry & Silvopasture

### How to get a stewardship plan for your land

To have a stewardship plan written for your property, fill out an application, which can be found on our website at: [www.scfc.gov/management/stewardship/forest-stewardship-application](http://www.scfc.gov/management/stewardship/forest-stewardship-application). Send it in to your Regional Stewardship Forester at the address provided. You can also contact us by phone or email, or visit an SCFC office in your area for more information.



### About us

South Carolina's Forest Stewardship Program is a federal and state partnership with funding from both. The state program is intended to provide free plans customized to the owner's objectives.

This publication made possible in part through a grant from the USDA Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### Contact an SCFC Stewardship Forester

#### PIEDMONT REGION

**Jaime Jones**

(803) 276-0205 • [jjones@scfc.gov](mailto:jjones@scfc.gov)

#### PEE DEE REGION

**James Brunson**

(843) 662-5571 • [jbrunson@scfc.gov](mailto:jbrunson@scfc.gov)

#### COASTAL REGION

**Vaughan Spearman**

(843) 538-3708 • [vspearman@scfc.gov](mailto:vspearman@scfc.gov)





# FORESTRY BMPs

The South Carolina Forestry Commission promotes compliance with South Carolina's Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMPs) through training programs, BMP Courtesy Exams, technical assistance, and regular monitoring. The BMP program is funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under a Section 319 nonpoint source pollution control grant through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Additional support for BMP compliance is provided through forest industry, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program and Timber Operations Professional (TOP) logger training program. Partners such as the South Carolina Forestry Association, the South Carolina Timber Producers Association, Clemson University, and the U.S. Forest Service contribute to a successful program. Relationships with regulatory agencies including the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also strengthen BMP compliance.

Overall BMP compliance on harvested sites was sufficient to protect water quality on **97%** of sites. A total of six sites were found to have inadequate BMP compliance with potential water quality impacts. On harvested sites, 4,150 individual practices were evaluated. Of that number, 3,965 practices were properly applied and 185 practices were not, including 12 of with significant risk. Total implementation rate for all practices was **95.5%**.



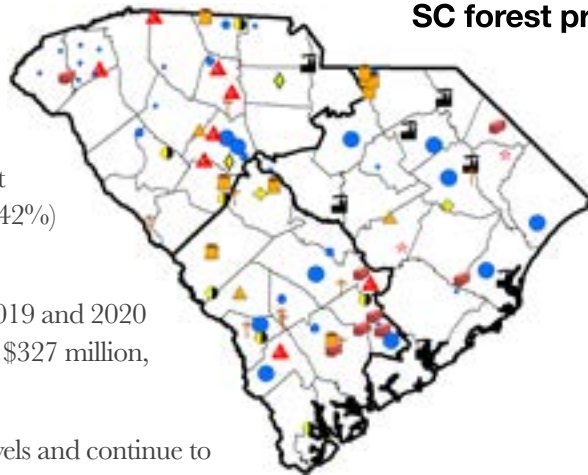


# FAST FACTS

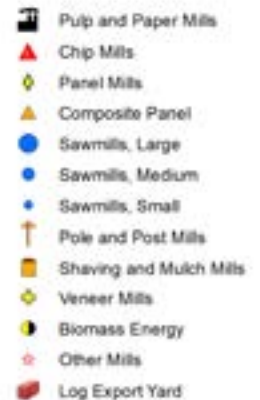
## ABOUT SOUTH CAROLINA FOREST PRODUCTS

### Did you know...?

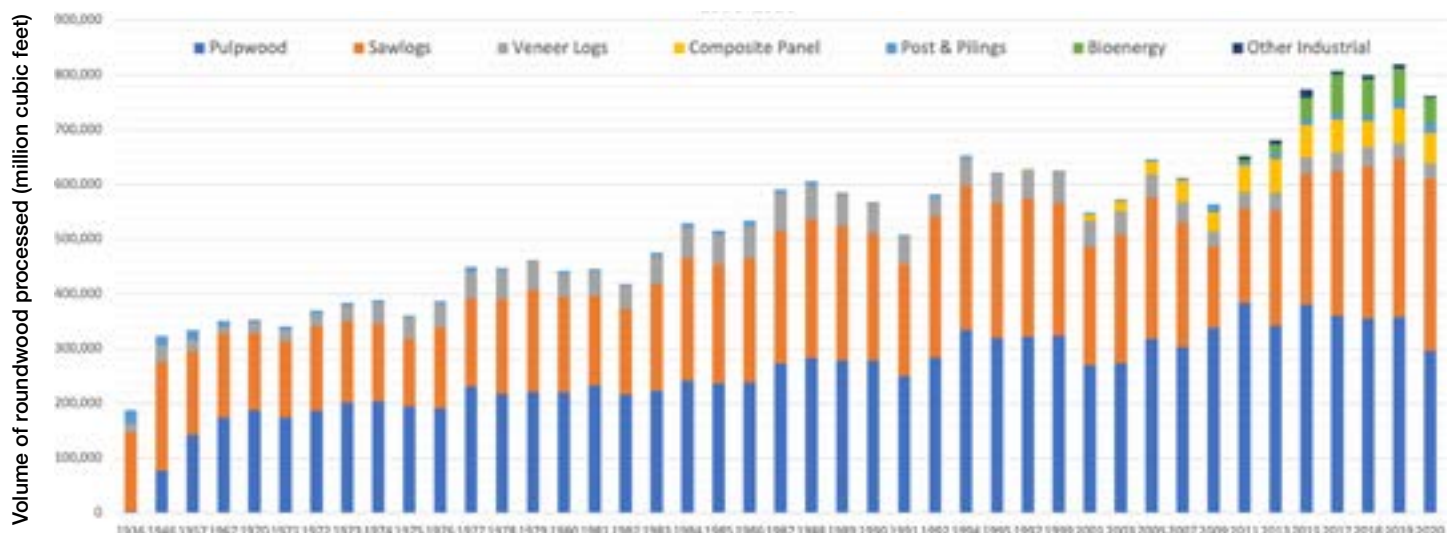
- Sawlogs are the state's leading forest product by volume, and production increased 8.4% to 314 million cubic feet between 2019 and 2020. Sawlogs are South Carolina's most valuable forest product by sector, accounting for \$375 million (~42%) of delivered timber value.
- Pulpwood production decreased 17% between 2019 and 2020 to 296 million cubic feet and a delivered value of \$327 million, driven by a variety of factors.
- Timber volumes and growth remain at record levels and continue to increase, offering opportunities for expanded mill production, growth in job numbers, and improved landowner financial returns.
- Roundwood harvested from South Carolina forests decreased 7% between 2019 and 2020, to 762 million cubic feet.
- In 2020, international sales of forest products from South Carolina were valued at \$946 million US dollars. Compared against 2019, they represent a decline of almost 21%, and a second consecutive year with shrinking exports, resembling those in 2006.
- Based on 2018 data, forest contributes more than \$21 billion annually to South Carolina's economy and represents one of the state's leading manufacturing sectors in terms of jobs (98,306) and labor income (\$4.96 billion).



SC forest products mills



### Production of primary timber products in South Carolina, 1936-2020





# VALUE OF SC's TIMBER

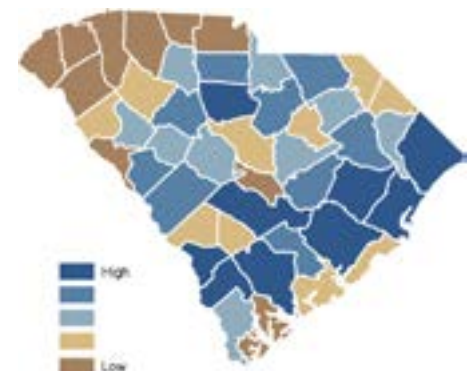
## DELIVERED TO MILLS IN 2020

February 2022

County	Acres of Forestland	Percent Forest	HARVESTED TIMBER VALUE		Delivered Value Rank
			Stumpage	Delivered	
Abbeville	262,549	76%	\$5,576,443	\$12,648,628	35
Aiken	422,409	64%	\$10,787,221	\$21,899,992	13
Allendale	190,577	67%	\$15,755,802	\$27,731,766	9
Anderson	195,015	44%	\$1,561,812	\$3,884,404	43
Bamberg	198,136	86%	\$5,852,696	\$12,934,861	34
Barnwell	285,423	81%	\$6,534,073	\$13,669,809	31
Beaufort	127,642	32%	\$2,531,353	\$4,960,847	41
Berkeley	564,533	80%	\$29,635,594	\$54,973,707	2
Calhoun	171,392	67%	\$5,103,614	\$11,386,163	37
Charleston	281,730	46%	\$6,859,463	\$12,986,532	33
Cherokee	182,798	75%	\$1,436,102	\$3,238,551	44
Chester	307,422	85%	\$9,302,523	\$19,152,435	18
Chesterfield	375,715	73%	\$11,112,330	\$19,838,266	17
Clarendon	221,575	58%	\$14,288,916	\$24,545,882	11
Colleton	493,480	74%	\$18,020,287	\$33,902,200	6
Darlington	160,073	45%	\$10,004,530	\$17,246,684	19
Dillon	141,027	56%	\$6,660,247	\$11,642,754	36
Dorchester	263,562	73%	\$10,033,134	\$20,686,077	15
Edgefield	228,527	75%	\$13,201,580	\$26,511,090	10
Fairfield	401,239	88%	\$11,611,745	\$28,200,729	8
Florence	340,465	64%	\$11,558,248	\$20,411,423	16
Georgetown	424,168	74%	\$34,337,417	\$60,022,009	1
Greenville	218,555	46%	\$1,650,008	\$4,092,890	42
Greenwood	212,656	70%	\$7,596,381	\$17,048,686	20
Hampton	249,343	73%	\$19,941,560	\$35,800,093	4
Horry	466,696	62%	\$14,308,102	\$29,156,361	7
Jasper	316,372	74%	\$8,808,903	\$16,674,804	22
Kershaw	342,081	72%	\$9,583,065	\$20,897,411	14
Lancaster	255,422	74%	\$7,157,231	\$16,475,246	25
Laurens	335,129	74%	\$6,045,761	\$13,893,612	30
Lee	123,532	48%	\$7,008,770	\$14,463,484	29
Lexington	256,920	52%	\$8,833,910	\$16,138,932	26
Marion	212,442	73%	\$8,501,144	\$16,702,375	21
Marlboro	233,841	71%	\$7,574,631	\$14,597,855	28
McCormick	198,336	91%	\$4,488,834	\$10,336,625	38
Newberry	341,564	80%	\$10,706,719	\$23,958,136	12
Oconee	247,728	65%	\$699,904	\$1,977,951	45
Orangeburg	433,347	61%	\$15,846,744	\$35,783,979	5
Pickens	227,860	68%	\$612,490	\$1,676,854	46
Richland	304,311	66%	\$5,705,847	\$13,612,415	32
Saluda	208,498	74%	\$8,567,113	\$16,657,341	23
Spartanburg	214,059	41%	\$3,174,568	\$7,286,613	40
Sumter	276,242	64%	\$8,099,018	\$16,476,458	24
Union	258,988	82%	\$6,320,223	\$14,704,909	27
Williamsburg	411,622	71%	\$29,414,803	\$51,078,205	3
York	264,181	59%	\$4,315,010	\$9,306,064	39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,849,182</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>\$446,725,870</b>	<b>\$881,272,111</b>	



Delivered Value Rank, by County



Timber values are based on results of the 2020 Timber Products Output (TPO) Survey. "Acres of Forestland" and "Percent Forest" fields are based on 2020 estimates from the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Both programs are jointly administered by the USDA Forest Service - Southern Research Station and the South Carolina Forestry Commission. TPO numbers are designed to be interpreted at the state level. FIA numbers are designed to be interpreted at the state survey unit level.

# SCFC MARKETING PROGRAM

Expanded market opportunities encourage non-industrial forest landowners to exercise sound management practices on their land. Thanks to healthy markets and a favorable return on their timber investments, landowners will reinvest in establishing quality, well-stocked stands for future timber resources. New markets created through industrial and export development improve financial returns to landowners, retain working forests, enhance forest health, better protect water quality, and increase wood supply to retain and grow the forest industry and its job numbers. The goal of the SCFC's marketing program is to develop current and new markets for the state's forest resources and to increase export volume. We do this by offering research of marketing intelligence, targeted advertisement and promotion, market entry and expansion assistance, and education.

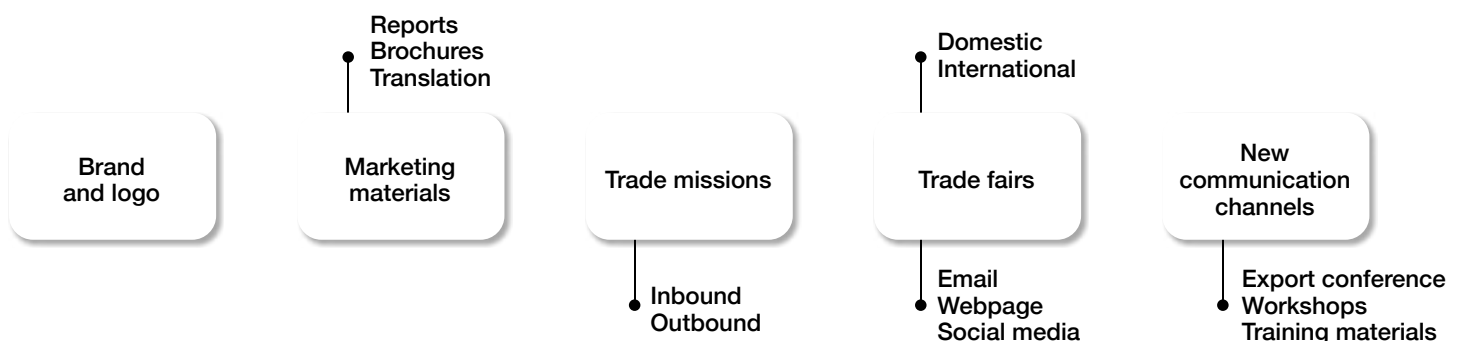


## Objectives

- Assess market needs/barriers
- Develop marketing information and trade contacts to improve demand for SC forest products
- Provide company-specific assistance for locating sources of raw materials or manufactured products from SC producers
- Disseminate databases on primary and secondary processors market and promote South Carolina forest product commodities for international trade

## Elements of our marketing program

- Monitoring the health of the state's forest products industry
- Conducting research on current and new markets
- Promotion and sales assistance:



## Other services and resources

Assistance is provided for forest/wood products and related business development. In addition, trade development activities are carried out to increase markets for South Carolina wood products.

- Forest products mill directory and maps
- Wood product business location or expansion assistance
- International trade information and assistance
- Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) reports, statewide and customized
- Timber Products Output (TPO) reports





# FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program has been in continuous operation since 1930. An initiative of the US Forest Service, the nationwide data collection project is now conducted primarily by state forestry agencies in the South. Every year, foresters canvass every state in an effort to:

*“make and keep current a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the present and prospective conditions of and requirements for the renewable resources of the forest and rangelands of the US.”*

The FIA program collects, analyzes, and reports information on the status and trends of America's forests: how much forest exists, where it exists, who owns it, and how it is changing, as well as how the trees and other forest vegetation are growing and how much has died or has been removed in recent years. This information can be used in many ways, such as in evaluating wildlife habitat conditions, assessing the sustainability of ecosystem management practices, and supporting planning and decision-making activities undertaken by public and private enterprises. The FIA program combines this information with related data on insects, diseases and other types of forest damages and stressors



Accurate, up-to-date forest resource information is critical for existing and new companies to assess wood supply sustainability and to invest in South Carolina.

to assess the health condition and potential future risks to forests.

The program also projects what the forests are likely to be in 10 to 50 years under various scenarios.

This information is essential for evaluating whether current forest management practices are sustainable in the long run and whether current policies will allow future generations to enjoy America's forests.

In each region, the program collects additional data beyond the core set and customizes analyses to address specific regional and local issues. Consequently, the information and trends discovered are important indicators of the conservation

and sustainable management of America's forests.

We use the latest technologies to acquire data through remote sensing and field activities. We use experts to augment our research and analytical capabilities and to help us develop new inventory and monitoring techniques. We use rigorous quality assurance procedures to verify the accuracy of our estimates and validate our analytical results. Consequently, government agencies, industries, environmental organizations, private landowners and consultants can rely on the credibility of our information to make critical land management, policy and investment decisions.





# URBAN FORESTRY

## AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

### **What is urban forestry?**

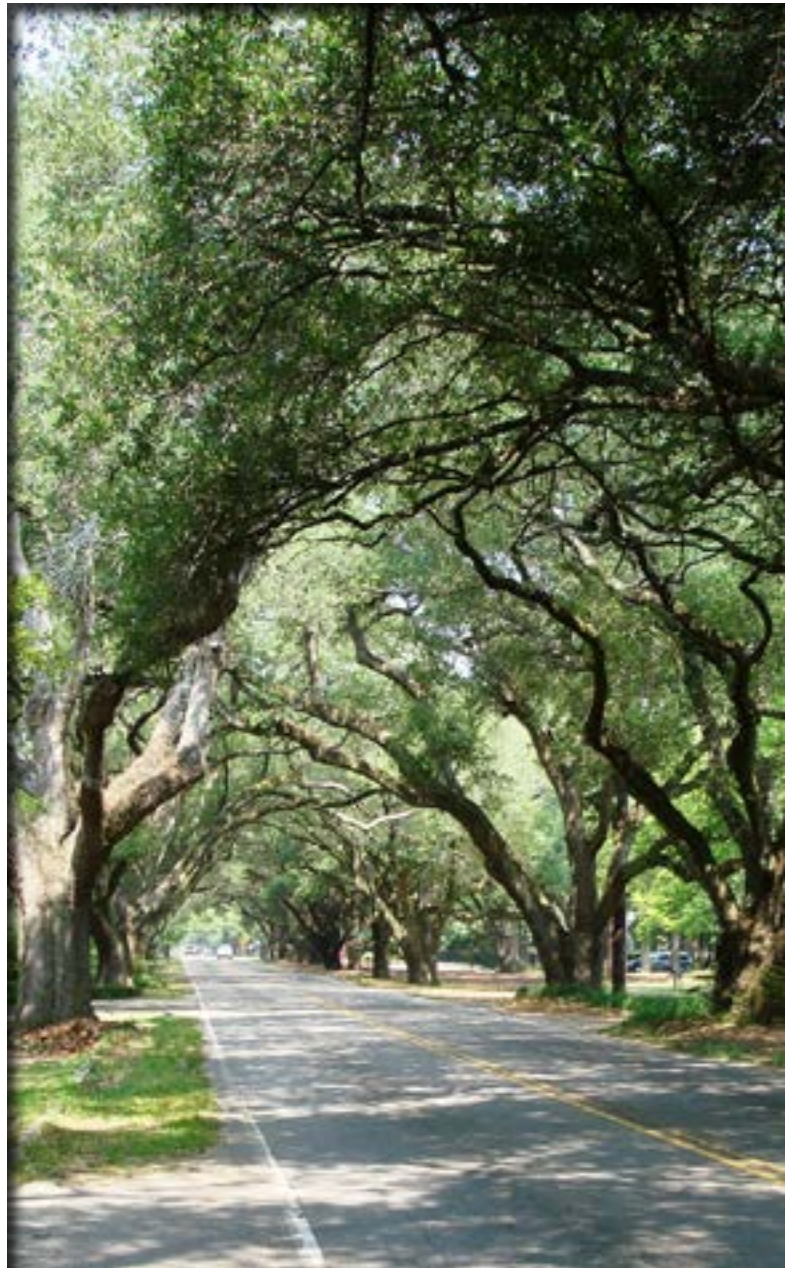
Urban forestry is the cultivation and management of tree populations in urban settings for the purpose of improving the urban environment. Urban forestry advocates the role of trees as a critical part of the urban infrastructure.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission provides technical, educational and financial assistance in urban and community forestry to local governments and organized groups living and working within established developing and populated areas.

### **Why is urban forestry important to the citizens of South Carolina?**

The 2010 U.S. Census reported that more than 66 percent of South Carolina's population lives in urban areas. Trees serve multiple purposes in our communities. Many people enjoy their shade, their beauty and the wildlife that live within them. Although people may not take a second to consider what it takes to maintain trees, they are an integral part of a community's infrastructure for a number of reasons:

- Trees are vital to the health of our community. They provide clean air, clean water and psychological well-being.
- Trees are our legacy. Our children and grandchildren will reap the benefits of the trees we plant and maintain today.
- Trees have a positive impact on business in our community. More attractive businesses draw more shoppers, who bring more dollars to our community.







# SCFC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Professional development opportunities for teachers

### PROJECT LEARNING TREE

Project Learning Tree is an award winning environmental education program designed for teachers working with youth from preschool through 12th grade. PLT materials supplement existing curriculum and are aligned to state and national standards. The Prek-8 guide book has over 96 hands-on, interdisciplinary activities that “teach students how to think and not what to think” about environmental issues.



**Contact: Matt Schnabel, Environmental Education Coordinator**

[mschnabel@scfc.gov](mailto:mschnabel@scfc.gov) | (803) 896-8892 | [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)



### SC SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY TEACHERS' TOUR

Spend seven days learning about the original green industry in our state — forestry! This course will take you from seed to finished product and everything between to provide a comprehensive look into the impact forests have on South Carolina's environment, economy, and quality of life. You will receive training in Project Learning Tree materials as well as other materials for use in your classroom. All meals, lodging, and materials are provided for FREE! Qualify for 45 certificate renewal credits at no cost, or three hours of non-degree graduate credit is available for a fee. Course dates in 2016 are June 14-16 and June 20-23.



**Contact: Guy Sabin**

[gsabin@scforestry.org](mailto:gsabin@scforestry.org) | (803) 798-4170 | [www.scfc.gov/education/teachers-tour](http://www.scfc.gov/education/teachers-tour)







# SCFC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Programs for students

### WOOD MAGIC FOREST FAIR

The Wood Magic Forest Fair is a free, fun, forestry-fact-filled field trip and festival for fourth-graders. This four-hour program of forestry-related educational experiences and demonstrations combines hands-on activities with visually engaging presentations to teach children about the importance of forest lands to wildlife, the economy, and our daily quality of life.



**Contact: Matt Schnabel, Environmental Education Coordinator**

[mschnabel@scfc.gov](mailto:mschnabel@scfc.gov) | (803) 896-8892 | [www.scfc.gov/education/wood-magic](http://www.scfc.gov/education/wood-magic)



### HARBISON STATE FOREST PROGRAMS

Bring your students to Harbison State Forest for a hands-on, engaging, and fun learning experience! All programs have been newly written and are aligned with South Carolina's 2014 Science and 2015 SCCCR Math Standards. Programs include a pre-visit activity that prepares students to get the most out of their visit to the forest. Programs are offered for kindergarten, first, third, fifth, and seventh grades, and high school.



**Contact: Matt Schnabel, Environmental Education Coordinator**

[mschnabel@scfc.gov](mailto:mschnabel@scfc.gov) | (803) 896-8892 | [www.scfc.gov/education/other-programs](http://www.scfc.gov/education/other-programs)



### OTHER PROGRAMS

To discuss other opportunities for your students to learn about South Carolina's forests and forestry, contact SCFC Environmental Education Coordinator **Matt Schnabel** at [mschnabel@scfc.gov](mailto:mschnabel@scfc.gov) or (803) 896-8892.





# OUR STATE FORESTS

## JEWELS OF MANAGEMENT AND RECREATION

### **Sand Hills State Forest**

Sand Hills State Forest is a 46,838-acre tract in Chesterfield and Darlington Counties near Patrick.

- Hunting, Pond Fishing, Hiking, Horseback Riding Trails, Camping, Picnicking

### **Manchester State Forest**

Manchester State Forest is a 28,675-acre tract in Sumter County near Wedgefield.

- Hunting, Pond Fishing, Hiking, Horseback Riding Trails, Bicycle Trails, Motorcycling, Picnicking, Rifle and Pistol Range

### **Harbison State Forest**

Harbison Environmental Education Forest is a 2,137-acre tract in Richland County inside the Columbia city limits. No hunting or fishing is allowed on this forest.

- Hiking, Bicycle Trails, Scout Camping, Picnicking, Interpretive and Educational programs

### **Wee Tee State Forest**

Wee Tee State Forest contains 12,403 acres and more than 12 miles of frontage on the Santee River. Included in the property is a 200-acre lake and numerous ponds and oxbow lakes. These bottomlands and aquatic systems provide excellent fish and wildlife habitat.

- Hunting, Fishing, Canoeing/Kayaking, Biking

### **Poe Creek State Forest**

Poe Creek State Forest is a 2,498-acre tract in Oconee and Pickens Counties near Lake Jocassee in the South Carolina Upstate.

- Hunting, Trout Fishing and Hiking. Cabin and conference facility rentals also available.

Sugarloaf Mountain at Sand Hills State Forest



# GETTING THE MOST FOR YOUR TIMBER

## **Always seek professional advice...**

Contact the South Carolina Forestry Commission, whose foresters can help you determine whether your timber is marketable. The Commission also maintains and publishes a list of consulting foresters around the state who assist landowners with everything from appraisal and marketing to harvesting and reforestation.



Hire a consulting forester to manage your timber harvest. Using a consulting forester is like working with a real estate agent to buy or sell your home. These professionals work on your behalf, representing your interests alone, to ensure the best possible price is obtained. Consulting foresters can manage every aspect of your timber sale, from estimating your trees' value and soliciting bids to developing a timber sale contract and overseeing all harvest operations.

## **If you decide to sell your timber on your own...**

### **Team up with your neighbors.**

Time your timber sale to coincide with adjoining properties to increase your profit.

### **Market your timber.**

Send out Requests for Bids with the goal of obtaining at least three bids.

### **Always have a written contract.**

Include a description of the sale area, type of harvest, amount to be paid (lump sum or amount per ton), length of contract and provisions for extension, and penalties for damage to your property.

### **Monitor the harvest.**

Ensure that provisions of contract are followed.

### **Plan for reforestation.**

Set aside funds for site preparation and tree planting; also apply for cost-share.

## **Factors affecting the price that landowners receive...**

**Size** of harvest area

**Volume** of wood to be harvested

**Size** of trees to be cut

**Quality** of trees – straightness, defects

**Location** – proximity to mills, ease of transport

**Access** – wetness of tract



# EQUIPMENT/SERVICES

## 2021-2022 PRICE GUIDE

### Equipment

#### Tree planters



**\$5/acre**  
\$25 minimum

#### Drum choppers



**\$20/acre**  
\$100 minimum  
Transportation Fee  
**\$3.50 per mile**  
from SCFC headquarters in  
Columbia to and from the site.  
\$50 minimum

#### Temporary bridges

**\$50/week**  
\$200 deposit required

The bridges are located at the SCFC offices in Walterboro and Columbia. SCFC personnel will load the bridges onto contractors' trailers, but they must be secured and transported by the contractor.



In order to rent the bridges, the contractor must obtain:

- workmen's compensation insurance coverage for its own employees;
- public liability insurance with limits of \$1 million for the injury to or death of one person, and \$2 million for the injury to or death of more than one person;
- property damage insurance with limits of \$1 million arising out of a single accident and \$2 million for damage to the property of third persons;
- an insurance certificate verifying coverage and identifying SCFC as an additional insured entity is required.

To request more information or to reserve a set of bridges, please contact SCFC Environmental Programs Coordinator Holly Welch at (803) 667-0815 or hwelch@scfc.gov

### Services

#### Prescribed burning

**\$25/acre**  
for understory burning  
(firebreak plowing not included)

**\$35/acre**  
for understory burning in mountainous  
terrain and site preparation burning  
(firebreak plowing not included)

**\$500 minimum** for all  
prescribed burning services

#### Prescribed burning standby

**\$80\* for first hour**  
**\$40 for each additional hour**  
(landowner is responsible for fire and must follow an SCFC-  
approved burning plan)  
\$120 minimum

\* Includes mileage charge for each unit per day.



#### Extracting mired forestry equipment

(Limited to equipment performing forestry services)

Medium Tractor  
**\$200\* for first hour, per tractor**  
**\$120 for each extra hour, per tractor**  
\$200 minimum

Large Tractor  
**\$250\* for first hour, per tractor**  
**\$150 for each extra hour, per tractor**  
\$250 minimum

\* Includes mileage charge for each unit per day.



Requests will be handled during normal S.C. Forestry Commission business hours 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and requests received after 2 p.m. may be handled no sooner than the following business day.



# FORESTRY IS BIG BUSINESS

South Carolina's forests are an economic engine that creates wealth, provides jobs and contributes to the state's quality of life as well as its business and environmental health. All of the commercial enterprises that make up the forestry sector constitute one of the largest industries in our state. Forestry continues to be a pillar of our state's economy, contributing **\$21.2 billion** annually while providing more than 98,000 jobs and \$4.9 billion in annual labor income. Compared to other leading industries in the Palmetto State, forestry ranks #1 in jobs, #2 in labor income, and #3 in direct economic output.

#1 in JOBS



98,000+  
JOBS IN FORESTRY

#2 in LABOR INCOME



\$5 BILLION  
CONTRIBUTION

#3 in DIRECT ECONOMIC OUTPUT



\$9 BILLION  
DIRECT ECONOMIC OUTPUT



South Carolina  
Forestry Commission





### **Our mission**

Protect, promote and enhance South Carolina's forests for the benefit of all

### **Our vision**

Healthy forests, resilient communities, impeccable service







South Carolina  
**Forestry Commission**  
[www.trees.sc.gov](http://www.trees.sc.gov)